



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER
2011

**Burr Oak Woods
Conservation
Nature Center**
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Come for an outdoor
holiday adventure.*
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Shooting Range
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KANSAS CITY

Nature & You

News and Events from Missouri Department of Conservation



Kansas City contributes to Missouri's conservation milestones

A 75th anniversary celebration begins this fall for conservation in Missouri, and some birthdays are also approaching for Missouri Department of Conservation areas enjoyed by thousands of people annually in the Kansas City area.

Places to hike, safely target shoot and learn about nature were rare in cities when Missouri voters went to the election polls on Nov. 3, 1936. Fish and game were scarce in the rural countryside too, after more than a century of over-exploitation.

But voters in the Kansas City area overwhelmingly supported Constitutional Amendment No. 4, which placed fish and game management under the Missouri Conservation Commission rather than the state legislature and allowed creation of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Voters statewide favored the amendment 879,213 to 351,962. Though it failed in some rural counties, voters in cities gave overwhelming support with 85 percent approval in Kansas City, 77 percent in the remaining areas of Jackson County, 78 percent in Clay County and 63 percent in Platte County.

People from Kansas City who enjoyed the outdoors were among the leaders who worked to secure both political and grassroots support for the amendment, according to author Charles Callison's historical account of the election in his book, "Man and Wildlife In Missouri."

Missouri's long-range conservation management based on science and public service became a leading model for the

nation and beyond. The state now offers world-class outdoor recreation, from fishing and hunting to bird watching and nature photography. But also offered are education and private land services that build sustainable communities for the future.

Anniversaries are approaching in the Kansas City area, too, for MDC education and conservation centers where people can hike, enjoy wildflowers, target shoot, learn about nature and polish outdoor skills.

The **James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area** near Lee's Summit got its start in 1952 with a land donation by Mrs. Nell Reed, a leading Kansas City business woman. The Reed Area is now expanded to 3,084 acres and will

Continued on back page



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enjoyed the outdoors were
among the leaders who
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Burr Oak Woods CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.



1401 NW PARK ROAD
BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI 64015

HOURS: Nature Center
Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM
Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Area and Trails
Daily: 7 AM–6 PM
Daylight Savings Time: 7 AM–8 PM
Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:
Programs are free. **Call 816-228-3766** to sign up for a *Registration required* program on or after the first business day of that month.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

HOMEMADE BOWS AND ARROWS

NOVEMBER 5 / SATURDAY / 10:30 AM – 12 NOON
Registration required beginning October 25 (Families with children ages 7 and up) Archery is a great way to get your kids outside and enjoy nature! Discover this fun sport and hone your marksmanship skills by crafting a bow and arrows from our seasoned saplings.

CONSERVATION KIDS CLUB: NOCTURNAL HABITATS

NOVEMBER 8 / TUESDAY / 6:30–8:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 7–13) Explore the mysterious world of nature at night. Many nocturnal animals call Burr Oak Woods home, so night time can be very active in our forest, prairie and pond habitats. Join us as we venture into the darkness to find out how different and alive these habitats are after the sun sets.

LITTLE ACORNS: TREES - BIG AS LIFE

NOVEMBER 9 / WEDNESDAY /
10:00–11:00 AM OR 1:00–2:00 PM
Registration required (Ages 3–5) Trees are one of the largest living organisms on Earth and play an important role in the natural world and in our lives. If we are really quiet and listen carefully, these magnificent giants just might tell us their amazing story!

HOME SCHOOL: GOBBLE GREATNESS

NOVEMBER 9 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM FOR AGES 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 OR 1:00–2:30 PM FOR AGES 6–8
Registration required. The runner-up to our national bird, the wild turkey, has wonderful characteristics that prove him worthy of such distinction. Join us this month as we discover this staple on our table and in our forest, Missouri's Wild Turkey.

CENTERPIECE MAKING

NOVEMBER 12 / SATURDAY / 10:30 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Adults) Create a natural centerpiece for your holiday table. We will supply natural materials (greenery, pinecones, acorns, grass, twigs, etc). Participants may bring ribbon or ornaments from home to add a personal touch.

BABES IN THE WOODS: PINE FOREST HIKE

NOVEMBER 15 / TUESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Babes under 36 months) Schedule some time for you and your little one to spend outdoors exploring one of Burr Oak Woods special places, the Pine Forest. Become more comfortable exploring a unique habitat with your "babe".

FALL FASHION

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 1:00–2:30 PM
Registration required (All ages) Create your very own leaf print t-shirt; it's all the rage in Missouri!



We will hike the Missouri Tree Trail shuffling and kicking our way through the fallen leaves. Collect a few leaves to print and show off on what's sure to be the most natural and vibrant addition to your closet.

Follow Frances Mathews, wild edible specialist, through the forest in search of wild edibles on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Burr Oak Woods.



WILD EDIBLES: NUTS TO YOU!

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 1:00–3:00 PM
Registration required (Adults) Discover the delicious nut producing trees native to Missouri. These same trees are essential to the very survival of some of our wild residents! Investigate tasty, nutritious treats that you can prepare for your own family while learning how wise use ensures enough for our wild families as well.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: LETTERBOXING

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 2:00–4:00 PM
Registration required (Families with children ages 6 and up) Letterboxing is a great way to combine navigational skills with artistry and adventure. Your family will work together to make your own letterboxing stamp and then we'll head out on a letterboxing treasure hunt!



ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

NOVEMBER 26 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM–12 NOON
Walk-in (Ages 2 and up) Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures. We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

NATURALIST ON CALL: WINTER BIRDING BASICS

NOVEMBER 26 / SATURDAY / 12 NOON–2:00 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Cool weather has returned to Burr Oak Woods and so have many of our favorite birds. Join us at the feeders as we identify some returning winter residents and learn how to attract them to our own backyards.

We help people discover nature!

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES:

NIGHT HIKE AND CAMPFIRE TALES

DECEMBER 1 / THURSDAY / 6:30–8:30 PM

Registration required beginning November 1



(Families) Learn new techniques to help your children seek and not hide from the creatures of the

night. We will discover the night's wonders as we stalk down the trail in search of nocturnal life.

Then warm up with stories of nature adventures and gooey s'mores.

NATURAL WREATHS

DECEMBER 3 / SATURDAY / 12 NOON–2:00 PM

Registration required beginning November 1

(Adults) Create a stunning natural wreath for your home! We will provide evergreens, dried native grasses, pine cones and other natural embellishments. Please bring a small wire or grape vine wreath as a base for your creation.

KIDS CRAFT DAY

DECEMBER 10 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Walk-in (Children of all ages) Kids Craft Day is a great way to make the holidays special. Make one-of-a-kind natural presents to give to the people you love this holiday season. Don't forget to create your own gift wrap before you leave!

CONSERVATION KIDS CLUB: THE NIGHT TREE

DECEMBER 13 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM

Registration required (Ages 7–13) Children soon forget about the toys they get, but they will cherish holiday traditions for a lifetime. Create a new tradition with your family this year, as we create edible decorations for the wild winter residents of Burr Oak Woods. We will venture out into the night forest to garnish a tree especially for them and conclude our special evening with s'mores, hot chocolate and a story.

LITTLE ACORNS:

WILDLIFE WINTER SURVIVAL

DECEMBER 14 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:00 AM
OR 1:00–2:00 PM

Registration required (Ages 3–5) People have winter coats and animals grow thick winter fur. But how can animals stay outside all winter long? We would freeze! Come learn how wild animals survive the snow, ice and cold of the winter months.

HOME SCHOOL: WINTER SURVIVAL

DECEMBER 14 / WEDNESDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM FOR AGES 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 OR 1:00–2:30 PM FOR AGES 6–8
Registration required. Jump, soar and pounce into a season full of wonder. Hear gripping stories of what it takes to survive the wild winter.

THE SECRET WINTER TRAIL

DECEMBER 17 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM

No registration required (Families with children ages 10 and up) Immerse yourself in the quiet hush of an early winter morning with Naturalist Kathleen as she reveals a secret entrance into the award winning Bethany Falls Trail. Exploring this trail in winter is a magical experience that your family will not soon forget. Meet at the nature center.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE:

WINTER ADVENTURE

DECEMBER 28 / WEDNESDAY / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Registration required (Ages 8–17) Don't be stuck inside all week. If you love to be outdoors and would like to learn new skills then join us during your Christmas vacation for this fun-filled winter adventure. Your quest will include wilderness survival, fire building and first aid, finding your way with a compass and animal tracking. After a campfire lunch, put your new skills to use in The Amazing Wilderness Race!

NEW YEARS EVE NATURE FILM FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 31 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Walk-in (All ages) Join us for an end of the year film festival. We will show nature movies and short documentaries throughout the day, featuring *On the Wings of the Monarch* at 9:00 a.m., *Planet Earth: Freshwater* at 11:00 a.m. and *Winged Migration* at 1:00 p.m. Sit back and enjoy these spectacular films highlighting our natural wonders.

ROCKIN' & READIN' NATURE TALES

DECEMBER 31 / SATURDAY / 11:00 AM–12 NOON

Walk-in (Ages 2 and up) Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures. We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.



Special Guest: Master Bird Bander R. Craig Hensley

Craig Hensley is a lifelong naturalist and educator, sharing his love and passion for the natural world with children and adults for almost 30 years. Hensley has a master of science degree in zoology and a bachelor of science degree in fisheries and wildlife management. He has been involved in environmental education in Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Texas and now Kansas, where he serves as the Lead Education Specialist/Manager for the Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Schlagle Library in Kansas City, Kan. An avid birder, Hensley has been banding birds for 25 years for both research and educational purposes. Ask him his favorite bird and you'll soon find out that whatever bird he is watching or holding is his favorite.

SPECIAL EVENT

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR CHILDREN

DECEMBER 29 / THURSDAY / 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Registration required (Ages 8–17) For this Christmas vacation, help make a difference in the bird world! Join us as we leave our warm homes to venture outside with binoculars, bird guides and data sheets in hand to take part in the Christmas Bird Count. The data collected during the count allows biologists to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. We will begin the day with Binocular and Bird Identification 101 in the classroom. Next we will have the rare opportunity to work with special guest and **Master Bird Bander R. Craig Hensley** and meet some feathered winter residents up close and personal. We will then divide into small groups and head outdoors to count as many species of birds at Burr Oak Woods as we can in two hours.

What's for dinner?

Join us as we feed the
critters on exhibit
at Burr Oak Woods
Conservation
Nature Center
every Saturday and
Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Lake City

SHOOTING RANGE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.



28505 E. TRUMAN ROAD
LANDAHL PARK
BUCKNER, MISSOURI 64016

HOURS: May 1 – September 15
Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM
September 16 – April 30
Wed.–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM
Closed Monday & Tuesday
and all state holidays

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3.00 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3.00 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3.00 per person per hour

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a *Registration required* program.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282>

TEENS AND .22 CAL

NOVEMBER 22 / TUESDAY / 9:00–11:00 AM
Registration required (Ages 13–16) Are your teens interested in learning about shooting a rifle? This is the class for them. They are introduced to .22 cal rifles, nomenclature of the firearm and basic marksmanship skills. Shooting is an integral part of this class.

REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM- NRA COURSE

DECEMBER 3 / SATURDAY / 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
Registration required (Adults) Refuse To Be A Victim is a nationally recognized crime prevention program developed by the National Rifle Association that promotes awareness and prevention of criminal attack. Topics covered include home, automobile, phone, technological, travel and personal security.

NRA – FIRST STEP SHOTGUN

DECEMBER 4 / SUNDAY / 9:00 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Ages 12 and up) The NRA First Step Shotgun course is an introductory



course in the safe handling, storage and cleaning of shotgun. The course is taught by NRA certified shotgun instructors

following an NRA approved course curriculum. The course features high levels of student participation both in the classroom and on the range. Students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with and shoot shotguns.

PARA CORD WEAVING

DECEMBER 13 / TUESDAY / 9:00 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Ages 8–14) This is a fun course for kids 8 to 14 years of age and their parents/guardian. The student will learn to weave para cord into bracelets, friendship bracelets, and other articles using the following types of weave: Cobra Weave, S-Weave, Half Hitch, Four Strand Weave, and Back Cobra Weave. All material is supplied and the kids will go home with a bracelet.

NRA – FIRST STEP RIFLE

DECEMBER 17 / SATURDAY / 8:00 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Adults) The NRA First Step program is to provide beginning shooters with an introduction to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to own and use a specific rifle. The student will be learning the basic safety rules of handling firearms, types of rifles and basic understanding of marksmanship. You are encouraged to bring your own firearm and ammunition so instructors may assist you in your learning process of that firearm.

Serving up the grub

Now this was a tasty lesson. The Lake City Shooting Range on July 23 hosted a Dutch oven cooking class. MDC Outdoor Skills Specialist Chris Capps led the cast-iron cookery. Participants prepared dishes such as chuck wagon stew, lasagna with black beans and brownies. They helped set up the Dutch



ovens for cooking and prepared the recipes. After the food was cooked, students sampled the dishes and asked

questions about other dishes that can be prepared in Dutch ovens.

Lake City Range looks forward to hosting more Dutch oven classes in the future. To check when the Dutch oven cooking and other outdoor skills classes are held, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282>. We look forward to seeing you at our next Dutch oven class.

Special thanks to Lake City shooters for our first year

With the conclusion of our first year at the new Lake City Range and Outdoor Education Center, the staff would like to thank all the patrons who sharpened their shooting skills or learned something new in our outdoor skills classes. This was quite a year for the staff at Lake City. We experienced a larger number of public shooters and program attendees than in years past at the old range. But we've risen to the challenges and found ways to better serve Missourians who enjoy the outdoors. We hope you have enjoyed our new classroom or the rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery target shooting venues, and we look forward to seeing you at the range in the coming year.

REMEMBER...

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Lake City Shooting Range will return to normal hours of operation which is Wednesday-Sunday, 12 noon – 4:30 p.m. If you are a deer hunter and want to take advantage of the extended range hours your last day will be Nov. 11. Hope to see you at the range.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

BEGINNERS ARCHERY

NOVEMBER 5 / SATURDAY / 8:00–10:00 AM
Registration required (Ages 12–16) Expand your knowledge and fun in the outdoors by learning archery and build on the fundamentals of archery by trying different types of bows. Learn how to shoot more accurately at distant targets.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES:

INTRODUCTION TO SKEET SHOOTING

NOVEMBER 20 / SUNDAY / 9:00 AM–12 NOON
Registration required (Ages 12 and up) Tired of trap shooting and looking for a quicker game?



Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve

your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport.

Parma Woods

SHOOTING RANGE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.



15900 NW RIVER ROAD

(MAIL) PO BOX 14024

PARKVILLE, MISSOURI 64152

HOURS: May 1 – September 30

Friday – Sunday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Monday & Tuesday: 2 PM – 8 PM

October 1 – April 30

Friday – Tuesday: Noon – 4:30 PM

Closed all state holidays

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3.00 booth per hour
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3.00 per hour
- Archery range: \$3.00 per person per hour

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a *Registration required* program.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/283>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

DISCOVER HUNTING: WATERFOWL ID WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 17 / THURSDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM

Registration required (All ages) Missouri is home to 38 different species of waterfowl, though only about 20 of these are regularly seen in the state. There are more than 150 other birds that require wetlands too, and most of these are protected.

To further complicate things, in most ducks the male and female look different. Let our experienced staff teach you the basics of duck and goose ID. You will also learn about some of the common species.



DISCOVER HUNTING: DEER PROCESSING

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 8:00 AM–12 NOON

Registration required (Ages 8 and up) Tired of paying a processor to cut up and package your deer meat? Some people try to hack their way through it themselves, but often aren't happy with the finished product. With 25 years of practice and too many deer to count, our instructor will show you a simple and effective method to process your own. You will also learn how the different cuts of meat relate to those you buy in the store.



DISCOVER HUNTING:

CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEMINAR

NOVEMBER 23 / WEDNESDAY / 6:00–9:00 PM

Registration required (Ages 8 and up) In recent years, Canada goose numbers have steadily increased. This increase has led to increased hunting opportunity. If you have been interested in trying your luck at goose hunting, or wanting to know what it is all about you should



join us at the range for a seminar that will teach you what you need to know.

VENISON COOKING CLASS

NOVEMBER 30 / WEDNESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM

Registration required (All ages) I often hear people talking about eating deer meat and folks that say they don't like it. Though everyone likes different foods, I believe often times people don't like deer meat because they had some that wasn't properly prepared. Join us at the range to sample a couple different dishes as we talk about what went into making them. Those who attend may also get some super-secret family recipes.

SAUSAGE AND JERKY MAKING

DECEMBER 1 / THURSDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM

Registration required (All ages) Making sausage and jerky is a great way to utilize parts of your game animals that are less than desirable used in other ways. In this course we'll talk all about the equipment and techniques needed to make several different kinds. We'll also show you the basic processes. You never know, samples may be available as well.

Shooting range celebrates ten eventful years

Parma Woods Shooting Range opened with a BANG as Conservation Commissioner Anita B. Gorman fired the first shot at the range dedication on Nov. 7, 2001. A partnership enabled that shot.

William F. Parma in 1986 donated forested, hilly land to Platte County for use as a park. The Platte County Commission was on target when they contacted the Missouri Department of Conservation, and in 1995, the county and MDC entered into a 99-year lease of 188 acres for the construction of what is today the Parma Woods Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center.

A setback followed the 2001 opening.

On July 15, 2002, fire damaged the range firing line. MDC was forced to rebuild the firing range. Staff members from MDC's Design and Development Division were pulled in from across the state to assist. In record time, the rebuild was complete and the range reopened in time for hunters to sight-in rifles for deer season that fall.

The \$3.3 million shooting range and classroom complex is designed for fun and education. Recreational target shooters enjoy a modern and safe place to shoot. Hunters can practice and become proficient with their sporting arms. Classes are offered on hunting skills and ethics. The shooting range also provides a controlled environment that allows shooters to feel safe, ask questions and receive assistance.

Today, Parma Woods enjoys an annual usage of almost 30,000 visitors. Wild lands away from the shooting range are like the park that William F. Parma envisioned with hiking trails, picnic areas and wildlife viewing opportunities. Public hunting is available on the area along with target shooting at the range for rifle, handgun and archery.

The Parma Woods staff members are experts in many outdoor pursuits and teach more than 100 different classes each year. Those classes serve families, youth, women and men.

Join us from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 7 as we celebrate 10 wonderful years. Shooters will receive one free hour of range time. Staff members will be on hand to offer assistance and give demonstrations throughout the day. Refreshments will be served.

Thanks to all visitors and volunteers for 10 eventful years serving nature and you.

– Nathan Woodland,
Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting /fishing permits at the gift shop.



4750 TROOST AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64110

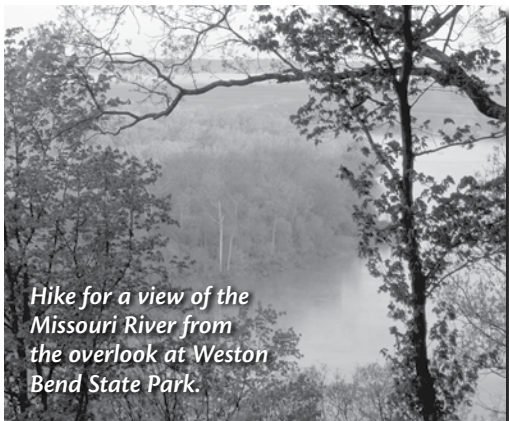
HOURS: Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
1st & 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM – 9 PM
1st & 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM – 4 PM
Closed all state holidays

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:
Programs are free. **Call 816-759-7300** to sign up for a *Registration required* program. Programs listed as *Walk-in* are come anytime.
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/281>

PROGRAMS & EVENTS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

CHAINS AND CYCLES

NOVEMBER 1 / TUESDAY / 6:30–8:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) All life on earth depends on chains and cycles food chains and life cycles. As we move into the winter months, explore how the seasons impact food chains and how that in turn impacts life cycles. Construct a food chain or life cycle mobile to remind you how life flows around us.



Hike for a view of the Missouri River from the overlook at Weston Bend State Park.

HOME SCHOOL: HANDS-ON HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 3 / THURSDAY / 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
Walk-in (Ages 5 and up) Join us today to experience some of the highlights of Discovery Center's six interactive workshop spaces plus join us for an outdoor hike. Each of the workshops offer hands-on activities which help students better understand and appreciate Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. Feel the difference between the scales of a reptile and the smooth skin of an amphibian, investigate what an owl ate for dinner, create your own river watershed and more. Bring your lunch to eat on-site and spend the day.

SCOUT DISCOVERY DAY

NOVEMBER 5 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cadets, Cub Scouts and Webelos join us for a day of hands-on activities designed for fun and rank achievement. We'll have stations and exhibits set-up to provide opportunities to help meet the skill and knowledge requirements for assorted conservation related badges focused on outdoor skills and nature. Explore the life of animals and habitats that call Missouri home. Try your hand at new skills including shooting pellet guns, knot tying, tree identification, compass, fire starting and more. Both individual Scouts and troops are welcome. Don't miss out on this day created especially for Scouts!

BASIC SURVIVAL NEEDS OF BIRDS

NOVEMBER 15 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM
Registration required (All ages with adult) What do birds need to survive? Shelter is one of the most important parts of a habitat. Join us as we help the local wren, sparrow and finch population by improving their habitats through building a bird house. You'll learn about the birds and how to make this new house a hit with our feathered friends.

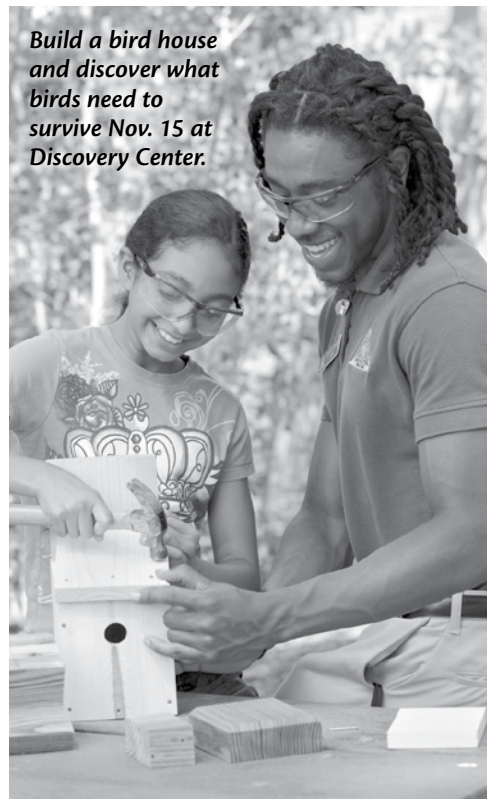
DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES:

WESTON BEND HIKE

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
Registration required (Families) Weston Bend State Park is just a quick getaway from Kansas City. The loess soil hills of the park feature dense forests and open fields that draw a variety of birds and wildlife. We will start at 10 a.m. at the overlook for an incredible view of the Missouri River. From there, we will take a short drive to the Bear Creek Trail for a one mile hike through bottomland forest. On the way, we'll pass the old Missouri River channel of 1858 as we search for signs of wildlife. The path is a relatively flat, dirt trail with tree roots and rocks. Wear sturdy shoes that can get wet. Registration deadline is Thursday, Nov. 17, transportation available.



Build a bird house and discover what birds need to survive Nov. 15 at Discovery Center.



TALKIN' TURKEY

NOVEMBER 19 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Are you prepared for the big Thanksgiving feast? Do you want to mix things up a bit? Join us for the third annual Thanksgiving cooking event where we will blow the top off of tradition. You will be introduced to outdoor cooking techniques, new recipes and Dutch oven basics. Cooking starts at 10 a.m. with sampling from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

REGAL EAGLES

DECEMBER 3 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (All ages) Missouri is one of the leading bald eagle states in winter. Each fall, thousands of these majestic birds migrate south from their nesting sites in Canada and the Great Lakes region. Eagles stay wherever they find open water and plentiful food. Missouri is especially



attractive to these magnificent birds due to our big rivers, many reservoirs and open wetlands. Celebrate eagles by constructing an eagle nest, testing your wingspan and learning the habits of these regal raptors.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: WILD IN THE CITY

DECEMBER 3 / SATURDAY / 10:00–11:30 AM
OR 1:00–2:30 PM

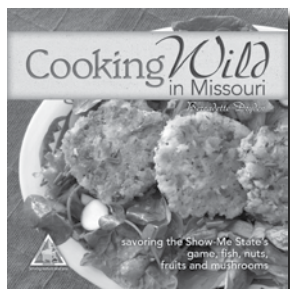
Registration required (Families) Can you find wild animals in the city? Yes. Hawks, raccoons and bats are only a few of the wild animals that call Kansas City home. Just like us they need food, shelter, water and space to survive. Join us as we learn about our wild neighbors. We'll go for a hike and search for signs and clues of these animals and habitats. We'll also learn ways to take care of city wildlife and what you can do to help them at your home.



COOKING WILD

DECEMBER 6 / TUESDAY / 6:00–8:00 PM

No registration required (Ages 12 and up) Taste a world of flavor with Missouri's game, fruits and nuts. Whether you hunt, fish or forage you will enjoy the recipes of *Cooking Wild in Missouri*, the Conservation Department's newest cookbook. Come hungry, we will



sample appetizers, main dishes and desserts while discussing how to use Missouri's wild bounty to create healthy dishes.

ORNAMENTS FROM NATURE

DECEMBER 17 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (All ages) Nature produces many materials that can be used to make colorful ornaments that can provide our trees and homes with seasonal decorations. Explore and experiment with the many material options available right outside the door.

HOLIDAY GREENINGS

DECEMBER 17 / SATURDAY / 10:00 AM–12 NOON
OR 1:00–3:00 PM

Registration required (All ages) Thinking of making the holidays a little greener this season? Learn to decorate using native plants and trees. Fashion a festive swag to hang using prairie grasses, wild nuts, berries and seeds. Registration deadline is Thursday, December 15.

WINTER SOLSTICE

DECEMBER 20 / TUESDAY / 6:30–8:30 PM

Walk-in (All ages) Tonight we embrace the darkness and celebrate the longest night of the year. Many Missouri animals are nocturnal. Find out what senses nighttime animals use to hunt, find food and survive.

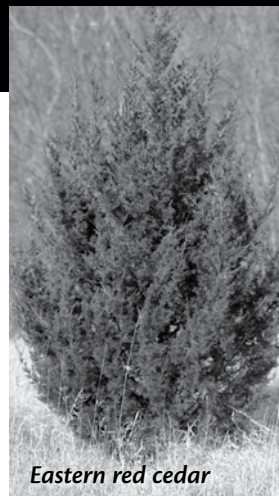
Native Greens for the Holidays

Our modern tradition of using evergreen trees and trimmings to decorate for the holidays may have begun with public pageants in medieval Europe. Called Mystery Plays, these events reenacted scenes from the Bible for the public in the days before books were invented. One popular Christmas presentation, which told the story of Adam and Eve used an evergreen tree decorated with apples as a stage prop to symbolize immortality. Such trees became associated with Christmas and people began to put up trees in their homes during the holiday season. German immigrants later brought the tradition to America.

Evergreens are also used for holiday decorating for the simple reason that they are alive and green when everything else in the winter landscape is brown or dormant. Here are several native greens to consider using for your holiday decorating this year.

Eastern red cedar is the only evergreen tree native to the Kansas City area. It grows just about everywhere, but likes prairies, open rocky woods and old fields. Red cedar can be a nuisance when it invades healthy glade and prairie natural communities. The trees are beneficial to wildlife providing berries for food and a thick crown for nesting and roosting birds.

Short-leaf pine is the only native pine of Missouri. Pine woodlands were once a major



Eastern red cedar

natural community in the Ozarks until extensive logging in the late 1800s devastated the resource. Salvaged Ozark pine beams from a 100 year old building in

downtown Kansas City were used in the construction of the Discovery Center.

Missouri has several native hollies.

American holly is the one most associated with Christmas and is one of the state's rarest trees found in only a few southeast counties. Prickles on the leaves help protect the tree from winter browsers while the berries provide food for wildlife.

Winterberry is a deciduous holly that is found along streambeds in the St. Francois Mountains of the Ozarks. The bright red berries are favorites of bluebirds, robins and cedar waxwings. Look for winterberry growing near the birdfeeding area at the Discovery Center.

To learn more about Missouri plants to use for holiday decorating plan on visiting the Discovery Center on Saturday, Dec. 17. Participants will create ornaments and wreaths using prairie grasses, evergreens, nuts, seeds and pods.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Discovery Center, Lake City and Parma Woods are closed all state holidays. As a result, these

Missouri Department of Conservation sites will be closed:

**Thursday & Friday,
November 24 & 25
Monday, December 26**

**Burr Oak Woods is closed
Thanksgiving and the day after
Thanksgiving (Nov. 24 & 25)
Closing at 1 p.m. on
Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)**

**2012
Natural
Events
Calendar
Now on sale
at Discovery**

**Center and Burr Oak Woods
Nature Shops. Only \$7.00**



THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE DEER

Discovery Center will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day so purchase your firearms deer permits early. Firearm deer season begins November 12.

Cover story continued

soon celebrate 50 years as a popular place for hunting, fishing, field dog trials and other outdoor pursuits.

Missouri voters in 1976, 35 years ago, approved an amendment creating a one-eighth of one cent sales tax for conservation. Approval by voters in cities and suburbs carried that amendment. The conservation sales tax generated additional funding for MDC's innovative conservation approach, including programs in urban areas.

In 1978, the 40-acre **Maple Woods Nature Preserve** was purchased in Gladstone, one of the first purchases made with conservation sales tax funds. Hikers on the area's trails enjoy the natural woodlands there, especially the scarlet maple leaves in autumn.

MDC in 1977 purchased farm land and forest for the 1,071-acre **Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area** in Blue Springs. In 1982, the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center was dedicated. Today, trails wind through woodlands and prairies. School children and families visit the center to learn about nature, skills for camping or outdoor cooking or simply how to enjoy the sights and sounds of a night-time hike. Burr Oak Woods will celebrate its 30-year anniversary in 2012.

The **Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center** is celebrating a 10-year anniversary this November. That project is a cooperative effort with Platte County, which owns the land west of Parkville. Visitors from throughout the metro area use the modern rifle and pistol range, a classroom and hiking trails on wild lands away from the range.

A 10-year anniversary arrives next year for the **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center**, which brings outdoor and nature education into the heart of urban Kansas City. Students learn about ecosystems and outdoor skills in classrooms. Visitors in the lobby gaze at wildlife displays and buy permits or ask questions about conservation programs. Outside, pathways wind through a remarkable outdoor garden with plants and trees from wetlands, woodlands and prairies. The garden transforms and blooms through the seasons and attracts an array of wild birds and butterflies within the city.

In June, the **Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center** celebrated a one-year anniversary. Attendance surged when the \$5 million campus near both Independence and Kansas City opened with rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery ranges. Outdoor skills classes are featured, too. The range is a cooperative project with Jackson County Parks and Recreation and located on park land. But MDC has operated a shooting range in that vicinity bearing the Lake City name since 1981, so a 30-year milestone for recreational shooting was passed this summer.

MDC has also provided many other conservation areas and river accesses throughout the metro area, and we've helped cities or non-profits with nature centers and green space preservation, all made possible by a groundbreaking and far-sighted conservation plan approved by citizens 75 years ago.

Help us celebrate. It's easy, just visit and enjoy.

— Bill Graham,

Media specialist for MDC Kansas City and Northwest regions

Volunteers make a difference!



Dexter A. Delano was honored on Sept. 21 for more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service at the Parma Woods Shooting Range. He's holding a .22 caliber Henry Golden Boy rifle presented by Range Officer Scott Harrison (left) and Range Manager Nathan Woodland.

Have you always wanted to share your love of the outdoors with others? If so, the Missouri Department of Conservation needs you. As an MDC volunteer you may work with the public and care for the natural resources at shooting ranges and nature centers.

For volunteers interested in assisting at Parma Woods Shooting Range, Lake City Shooting Range or Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, training sessions will be offered from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Parma Woods Shooting Range. If you wish to attend this training please contact Nathan Woodland at 816-891-9941.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center will host a Volunteer Naturalist training course beginning in February, 2012. This 30-hour training course will help prepare you to serve and assist at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center with interpretive programs, special events, outdoor skills, animal care, trail maintenance, native landscaping and more. You will become part of the Burr Oak Woods team as we work together to make a difference in our community.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2012 training course for volunteers ages 14 and up. To apply, please stop by the Nature Center at Burr Oak Woods or contact Rebecca Miller at 816-228-3766 before Jan. 10.

— PUBLIC NOTICE — Managed Deer Hunts at Burr Oak Woods in November

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will host two managed deer hunts in November. To ensure visitor safety, the area, all trails and the road way will be closed to all use, including walking, hiking, jogging and biking. During the managed hunts the nature center will remain open. Guests are welcome to use the front public parking lot and enjoy a visit inside the nature center.

Managed Archery Deer Hunt
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
November 2, 3 & 4

**Managed Muzzleloader
Deer Hunt**
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
November 28, 29 & 30



PRUNE LIKE A PRO!

**NOVEMBER 15
TUESDAY
6:30 – 8:00 PM**
Most trees fail in storms due to pre-existing defects that could have

been corrected with proper pruning practices. Urban Forester Chuck Conner will teach you how to train newly planted trees for strong growth and proper methods for pruning mature trees in your landscape. Registration required. Contact the Kansas City Regional office at 816-622-0900 to register before Nov. 8, 2011. Program will be presented at the new Kansas City Regional office at 12405 S.E. Ranson Road near Lee's Summit.